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## General Collection

In 2022, the Swiss National Library was involved in international efforts to develop standards in cataloguing. In the acquisition of collections and archives, it faced increasing pest problems, which is why it stepped up its prevention activities in this area. The *Innovation Fellowship* programme explored the potential of solutions using artificial intelligence. The collection has grown in the year under review and use of digital services has increased again.

## Collection

The General Collection of the Swiss National Library comprised just under 3.2 million physical documents and 250,536 digital archive packages at the end of 2022. The figures are not comparable with those from previous years because all of the National Library's collections were re-categorised in a project to determine the level of cataloguing.

In June 2022, the Swiss National Library hosted the General Assembly of the Swiss book industry and publishers' association (SBVV) for the second time. This association represents the majority of book shops and publishing houses in German-speaking Switzerland. Co-operation was also stepped up with Livresuisse, the SBVV's counterpart from French-speaking Switzerland.

As there was no longer any real need on either side, the depositary agreement between the Swiss National Library and the OECD in the area of collection activities was terminated.

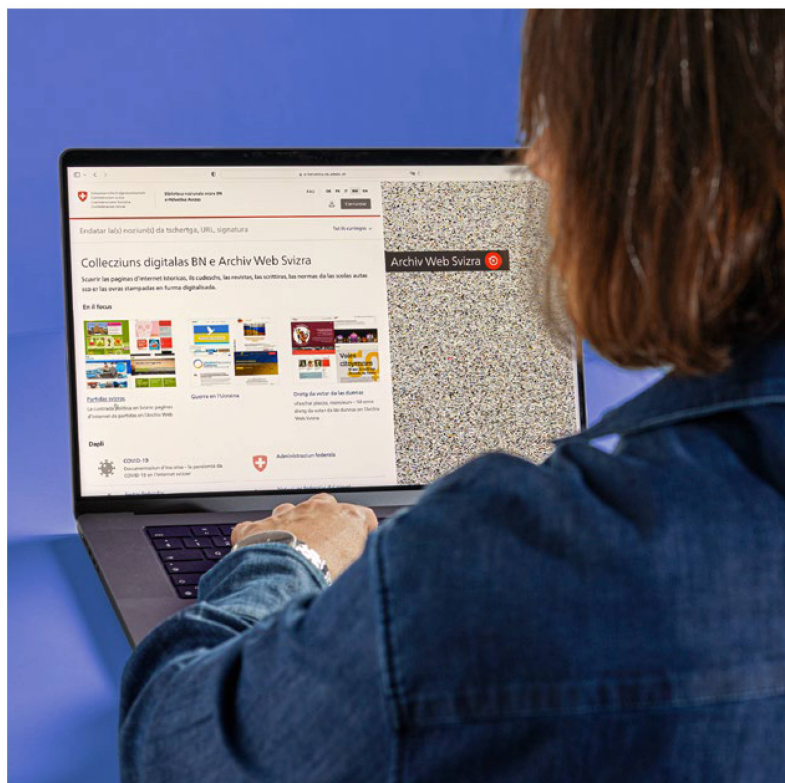
The collection of digitally born publications again saw significant growth. At the end of 2022, it comprised 250,536 archive packages, which is an increase of 13% (33,215 publications). In collaboration with the Swiss Library of Eastern Europe, a website collection was set up on the war in Ukraine on *Web Archive Switzerland*. The homepage to access the digital collections of **e-Helvetica** was overhauled and since late 2022 has also been available in Romansh.

## Catalogues

At the end of 2022, *Helveticat*, the Swiss National Library's library catalogue, comprised 1,985,974 bibliographic records (2021: 1,933,690), an increase of 2.6%.

The *CatCount* project was completed. It determined the level of cataloguing of all of the Swiss National Library's collections. The six main collections are of a library, archival or documentary nature. For almost 100 years, cataloguing was stable but in the last 25 years it has experienced rapid digitalisation. The results are heterogeneous and show that cataloguing of some collections is complete, while for others it is insufficient. In the General Collection, monographs are fully catalogued, as is the digital collection. Work is currently under way to improve the situation with regard to the periodicals collection and the corporate publications collection.

The Swiss National Library is the only European library that



**e-Helvetica**  
New Romansh page



is involved on the Board of the globally applicable *Resource Description and Access cataloguing standards*. As part of the Cataloguing Section of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, the Swiss National Library played a leading role in the complete revision of the *Statement of International Cataloguing Principles*. Together with the German National Library, the Austrian National Library and other partners, it defined practical application rules on the basis of worldwide standards. A lot of work was done on implementing different language versions and expanding the standards to non-library collections.

### Preservation and conservation

In all, 48,713 new acquisitions underwent conservation treatment, an increase of just under 2.9% compared with 2021 (47,314).

The well-known issue of **integrated pest management** in libraries, archives and museums gained in importance. During the course of preparations for the move to the temporary site of the Swiss National Library, pests were discovered in the storage areas at the interim location and in newly-acquired holdings. As the introduction of pests into existing collections must be prevented at all costs, preventive pest control activities were stepped up.

### Circulation

In 2022 the Swiss National Library had 2,017 active users of the General Collection, just under 20% fewer than in the previous year (2021: 2,415). The trend towards use of digital services which are available without enrolment continued. A total of 42,317 documents were



**Integrated Pest Management**  
Pest control measures

loaned, which is in line with the previous year's figure (42,621).

### Information retrieval

The number of information and research requests stood at 11,050, up nearly 19% from the previous year (2021: 9,000). The research and work stations for users were replaced. For this, the Swiss National Library uses Desktop as a Service technology, which consists of the machines on site and a server environment. Users can work directly on the server environment and access various information and software from the machines on site. This solution allows changes to be made centrally to the server environment.

### Outreach

In the year under review, six digitised periodicals were put online on the *e-newspaperarchives.ch* platform operated by the Swiss



National Library, including *Le Franc-Montagnard*, the *National suisse* and the *Bieler Tagblatt*. A number of existing titles were added to. At the end of 2022, *e-newspaperarchives.ch* provided access to 170 digitised newspaper titles (2021: 164), which equates to 11,514,096 pages (2021: 9,001,585). A total of 2,687,270 pages were put online in 2022 (2021: 931,388). 405,504 page visits were recorded, up from 401,343 in 2021.

The Swiss National Library put four periodicals on the platform *e-periodica.ch* operated by the ETH library Zurich, including three on the topic of music (2021: 15). A total of 910,978 pages were put online, which is a five-fold increase compared with 2021 (195,319). *e-periodica.ch* recorded 138,322 visits and 76,515 downloads.

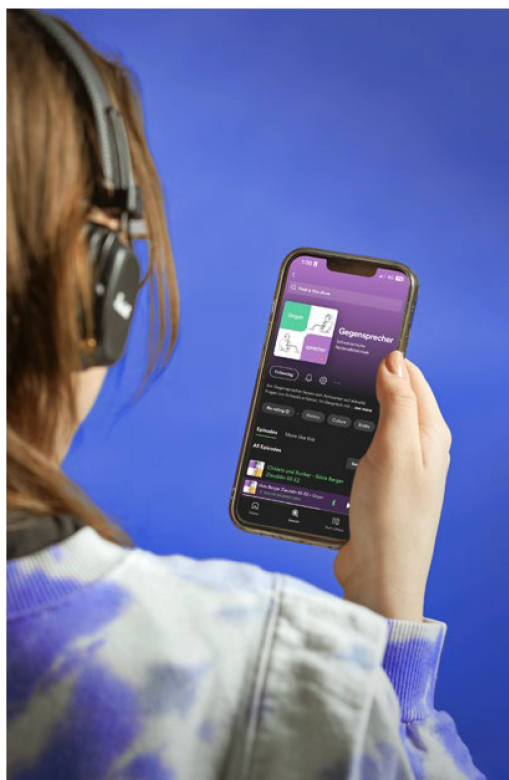
The Swiss National Library's website *nb.admin.ch* recorded 148,794 visits in 2022 (2021: 164,701). In all, the Swiss National Library's German-language Facebook page has 10,500 followers, the French-language page 9,108. There was a slight year-on-year increase on all pages. The Swiss National Library's German-language Twitter feed has 3,019 followers (2021: 2,900) and the French-language one 1,905 (2021: 1,900). The Swiss National Library's Instagram account has 3,206 followers (2021: 2,257).

The Swiss National Library launched the podcast *Gegensprecher* in 2021. For every exhibition in Bern, the podcast features four discussions with experts that delve deeper into the subject matter and have proved an attractive addition to the outreach activities.



**Digitisation**

A work from the Kleinmeister collection



**Gegensprecher**

The Swiss National Library's podcast

*Helveticat*, the catalogue of the General Collection, was accessed 379,317 times (2021: 347,385), while the figure for the *Swiss Poster Collections Union Catalogue* was 54,437 (2021: 46,472). *The Bibliography on Swiss History* was consulted 39,083 times (2021: 36,827). *HelveticArchives*, which mainly describes the holdings of the

Swiss Literary Archives and the Prints and Drawings Department, was consulted 48,471 times (2021: 118,706). The decline is due to a change in the analysis tool, which is now identical for all databases. The figure for the *e-HelveticAccess* portal to the digital collections was 25,810 (2021: 34,703).

A total of 9,300 people attended the Swiss National Library's exhibitions and events in Bern (2021: 9,879), while 579 took part in guided tours (2021: 456).

### Training

The practical **training** of the first mediamatics apprentices got under way in August 2022 after they had completed the first year of external basic theoretical training. The apprenticeship as information and documentation specialist (Federal VET Diploma) was run in accordance with the new, revised training plan. In the autumn of 2022, the training manager at the Swiss National Library was elected senior expert for the information and documentation specialist apprenticeship (Federal VET Diploma). The evaluation of the requirements for the revised Federal VET Diploma in bookbinding led to the decision to continue to offer the training at the Swiss National Library.

### IT

In the *digital long-term archive* project, the Swiss National Library procured the central component – the digital archive – as part of a WTO public tender. The contract was awarded to the company docu-team AG. The components of the *Access* system were put out for public tender. The new long-term archive is scheduled to be rolled out by 2025.



#### Training

Bookbinding: an apprentice carrying out thread-stitching





### BiblioWeekend

*Lenchens Geheimnis* – an audio play  
adapted from Michael Ende

### National activities

In March 2022, the Swiss National Library took part in the first **Biblio-Weekend** organised by the national association of public libraries, Bibliosuisse. The Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Conference of Cantonal Libraries was held on 13 May 2022 on the theme of *the (economic) value of libraries* with the participation of the Swiss National Library.

### Innovation

The Swiss National Library took part in the Federal Administration's *Innovation Fellowship* programme which aims to explore the potential of artificial intelligence. In three pilot projects, measures were developed which will be incorporated into operations.